

D-363
Dail Brick Storehouse
Cambridge
c. 1850-70
Private

The Dail brick storehouse is one of a handful of third quarter of the nineteenth century commercial buildings that have survived the fires that have plagued the center of Cambridge during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The three-story, three-bay by three-bay common bond brick structure anchors a key intersection where Poplar, Gay, and Race streets meet. The four- to six-course common bond, the splayed brick jack arches and the dentiled bed molding, executed in brick, that enhances the cornice all point to a construction date around 1850-70. An unusual feature of the pyramidal roof is the gable roofed cupola fitted with louvered sides that allows hot air to escape from the attic.

Recent land record research on the parcel establishes ownership back to the second quarter of the nineteenth century when the corner lot was involved in the estate insolvency case of Samuel LeCompte, who held the leasehold to the property during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. In the case to recover debts, John H. Hodson, a former sheriff of Dorchester County, was empowered by the court to sell the improved commercial lot in 1847. At the time, the property was improved by a host of buildings including a store-house and shop, dwelling house and granary, "all at or near the corner of Poplar & Gay streets." The improved lot was acquired by Thomas Dail for \$1,025, a sum that would not have included the value of the three-story commercial block. The corner lot and its large three-story brick storehouse was held in the Dail family until June 1870. After Thomas Dail's death in 1854, the property was owned and occupied by Thomas Dail's sons, Thomas J. and Levin S. Dail, who operated under the name, Thomas

J. Dail & Bro. In 1870 the store house and lot were purchased by Josias Simmons for \$5,200, a transfer sum that well reflects its highly improved status. During the late nineteenth century the Dail storehouse was held by a number of prominent Cambridge businessmen. In April 1909, brothers Fred. E. and Walter H. Meekins acquired the leasehold interest in the property and operated a confectionary under the firm, W. H. Meekins & Brother. Meekins family ownership lasted until 1921 when the property was transferred to Dorchester Lodge No. 19 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Lodge held title to the property until the mid 1960s.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-363

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

Dail Brick Storehouse

other

W. H. Meekins & Brother, Dorchester Lodge No. 19, I.O.O.F.

2. Location

street and number

~~501-503-505~~
500-505 Poplar Street

not for publication

city, town

Cambridge

vicinity

county

Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name

Cambridge Main Street Partners, LLC

street and number

519 11th Street, SE

telephone

city, town

Washington

state

D.C.

zip code 20003

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court

liber

MLB 745

folio 434

city, town

Cambridge

tax map 301

tax parcel

4420

tax ID number

7-114419

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category

- ☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

- ☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

- ☐ agriculture
☒ commerce/trade
☐ defense
☐ domestic
☐ education
☐ funerary
☐ government
☐ health care
☐ industry
☐ landscape
☐ recreation/culture
☐ religion
☐ social
☐ transportation
☐ work in progress
☐ unknown
☐ vacant/not in use
☐ other:

Resource Count

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-363

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dail Brick Storehouse, also known by various mercantile or retail concerns such as W. H. Meekins & Brother, or during the early twentieth century as Dorchester Lodge No. 19 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, stands on the corner of the intersection of Poplar, Gay and Race streets in the center of the Cambridge commercial district. The original three-story, three-bay by three-bay common bond brick store building dates to the mid nineteenth century, whereas an addition to the rear facing Gay Street is a second period addition dating to the late nineteenth century. The main block is distinguished by a pyramidal roof surmounted by a reconstruction gable roof louvered cupola. The building has an addresses of 501-503-505 Poplar Street. The building faces west.

Dating around 1850-70, the three-story, three-bay by three-bay brick storehouse is laid in common bond with varying course of four to six rows of stretchers for every row of headers. Although painted, the Poplar Street elevation is laid in a tighter, more formal fashion than the other sides. The first story has been altered with a redesigned storefront of large plate glass windows. There is a corner entrance to the principal commercial space. The ends of the storefront elevation are terminated with decorative pressed metal work and neoclassical pilasters at each end. A separate entrance, marked by a semi-circular Colonial Revival hood defines the northernmost bay of the Poplar Street façade. The second story of the Poplar Street elevation is defined by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows openings topped by brick jack arches typical of the second quarter of the twentieth century. Although the windows have been replaced the mid nineteenth-century window frames are intact and have a characteristic half-round profile common to the mid nineteenth century. New louvered shutters have been attached to each of the window openings. The third story is defined by the same six-over-six sash window openings framed by the half-round profile molding. Highlighting the edge of the pyramidal roof is a wooden cove cornice enriched with a bold dentil bed molding executed in brick as part of the wall construction. The dentil row stretches around the perimeter of the building atop a one-brick wide projection of the wall surface. An interior brick chimney rises through the roof on the northwest corner.

The Gay Street elevation is similarly detailed on the second and third stories. The first floor is a common bond brick wall that has been rebuilt in large sections. Attached to the back of the mid nineteenth century storehouse is a three-story, three-bay by three-bay rectangular shaped addition with an angled side that conforms to the Gay Street boundary. The window openings on each floor have been fitted with replacement six-over-six sash, and each opening is spanned by a double rowlock segmental arch. The base of the roof is trimmed with a plain cornice.

The interior has been extensively reworked as a modern commercial space, used on the first floor as a Day Spa. The second and third floors were not inspected.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-363

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Dail Brick Storehouse is one of a handful of third quarter of the nineteenth century commercial buildings that have survived the fires that have plagued the center of Cambridge during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The three-story, three-bay by three-bay common bond brick storehouse anchors a key intersection where Poplar, Gay and Race Street meet. The four- to six-course common bond, the splayed brick jack arches and the dentiled cornice that enhances the cove cornice all point to a construction date around 1850-70. An unusual feature of the pyramidal roof is the gable roofed cupola fitted with louvered sides that allows hot air to escape from the attic.

Recent land record research on this parcel establishes ownership back to the second quarter of the nineteenth century when the corner lot was involved in the estate insolvency case of Samuel LeCompte, who held the leasehold to the property during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. In the case to recover debts, John H. Hodson, a former sheriff of Dorchester County, was empowered by the court to sell the improved commercial lot in 1847.¹ At the time the property was improved by a host of buildings including a store-house and shop, dwelling house and granary "all at or near the corner of Poplar & Gay streets." The improved lot was purchased by Thomas Dail for \$1,025, a sum that would not have included the value of the three-story commercial block. The corner lot and its large three-story brick storehouse was held in the Dail family until June 1870. After Thomas Dail's death around 1854, the property was owned and occupied by Thomas Dail's sons, Thomas J. and Levin S. Dail, who operated under the label, Thomas J. Dail and Bro.² In 1870 the Store House and Lot was acquired by Josias Simmons for \$5,200, a transfer price that well reflects its highly improved status.³ During the late nineteenth century the Dail storehouse was held by a number of prominent Cambridge businessmen. In April 1909, brothers Fred E. and Walter H. Meekins acquired the leasehold interest in the property and operated a confectionary under the name W. H. Meekins & Brother.⁴ Meekins family ownership lasted

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 3/375, 17 May 1847, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 3/360-65, 2 February 1854, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 7/636, 27 June 1870, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 29/246, 26 April 1909, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-363

Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

until 1921 when it was transferred to Dorchester Lodge No. 19 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.⁵ Odd Fellows ownership of the building lasted until the mid 1960s.⁶

Thomas Dail's Brick Storehouse
500-505 Poplar Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 301, Parcel 4420

MLB 745/434

West End, LLC

to

7.5.2006

Cambridge Main Street Properties

\$425,000.00

404/871

James Duswalt

to

6.23.1999

West End, LLC

Exhibit A, Property No. 6, Plat of Survey prepared by
S. R. McCrone, Jr., Inc. Plat of Survey of land of Dorchester
Lodge No. 19 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, PLC 13/74

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, WHM 9/661, 1 January 1921, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 143/284, 30 June 1965, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

351/79	Richard D. Harrington, substitute trustee in case No. C7478
	to
12.3.1996	James A. Duswalt
	Property reverted to Bank of the Eastern Shore
PLC 179/244	Garden Estates, Inc.
	to
9.26.1973	Charles Landrum of Cambridge, Maryland
PLC 143/204	Dorchester Lodge No. 19, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
	to
6.30.1965	Garden Estates, Inc.
WHM 9/661	Fred E. Meekins, et al. (Verona A. Meekins, Walter H. Meekins, and Nettie E. Meekins
	to
1.1.1921	Dorchester Lodge No. 19, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
	Brick Storehouse Lot, 2 nd lot of land described in a deed CL 3/543, 12.13.1881

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Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

CL 29/246

W. Lake Robinson

to

4.26.1909

Fred E. Meekins
Walter H. Meekins [W. H. Meekins & Bro.]

\$8,000.00

CL 27/504

W. Lee Dixon, bachelor

to

2.9.1903

W. Lake Robinson

\$ 7,500 "Brick Store House Lot"

CL 24/600

J. Frederick Barton

to

8.28.1900

W. Lee Dixon

\$ 6,000 All that Brick Store House and Lot of ground

CL 18/480

William H. Barton, Jr.

to

8.17.1894

J. Frederick Barton

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Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

CL 3/543

William McK. Travers

to

12.13.1881

William H. Barton, Jr.

Insolvency of Wm H. H. Todd \$4,025.00

FJH 12/316

Leah C. Simmons, Administratrix of Josias S. Simmons, dec'd

to

3.11.1878

William H. H. Todd

\$ 4,625 Brickstore and Lot

Lot No. 1 of the Josias S. Simmons' leasehold property

FJH 7/636

Thomas J. Dail & others

to

6.27.1870

Josias S. Simmons of the Town of Cambridge

Being part of the lot of land which was about the year 1786 leased by Nicolas Hammond & upon which now stands a large three-story house occupied in part by Josias S. Simmons as a store, also a tenement occupied by as Shoe Store, and another tenement occupied by William W. Littleton as a Saddle & harness shop & another tenement occupied James Wilson as a dwelling, and which last tenement adjoins the balance of the original lot leased

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Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

by Hammond & owned by James Straughn of said town

FJH 3/360-61

William B. Dail & others, Representative of Thomas Dail, Sr.

to

2.2.1854

Thomas J. Dail

\$6,700the Store House occupied by Thomas J. Dail and Bro.
situated on Gay and Poplar....among other properties cited in deed

FJH 3/364-86

William B.Dail & others, Representatives of Thomas Dail, Sr.

To

2.2.1854

Levin S. Dail

\$1,000...the Store House occupied by Thomas J. Dail and Levin S. Dail
situated on Gay and Poplar Streets...among other properties cited
in the deed

WJ 3/375

John H. Hodson, Esq. former Sheriff of Dorchester County

to

5.17.1847

Thomas Dail

Writ of Fieri Facias on behalf of Wheatley Beckwith for the use of
Robert Wallace against Samuel LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte,
late of Dorchester County, yeoman

Took in execution, the House & Lot, Store-house and shop, and

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Name Dail's Brick Storehouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

dwelling house & granary all at or near the corner of Poplar and
Gay streets in the town of Cambridge and contiguous to each
other which are lease hold property and the property of the said
Samuel LeComte

\$1,025.00

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-363

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____
Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

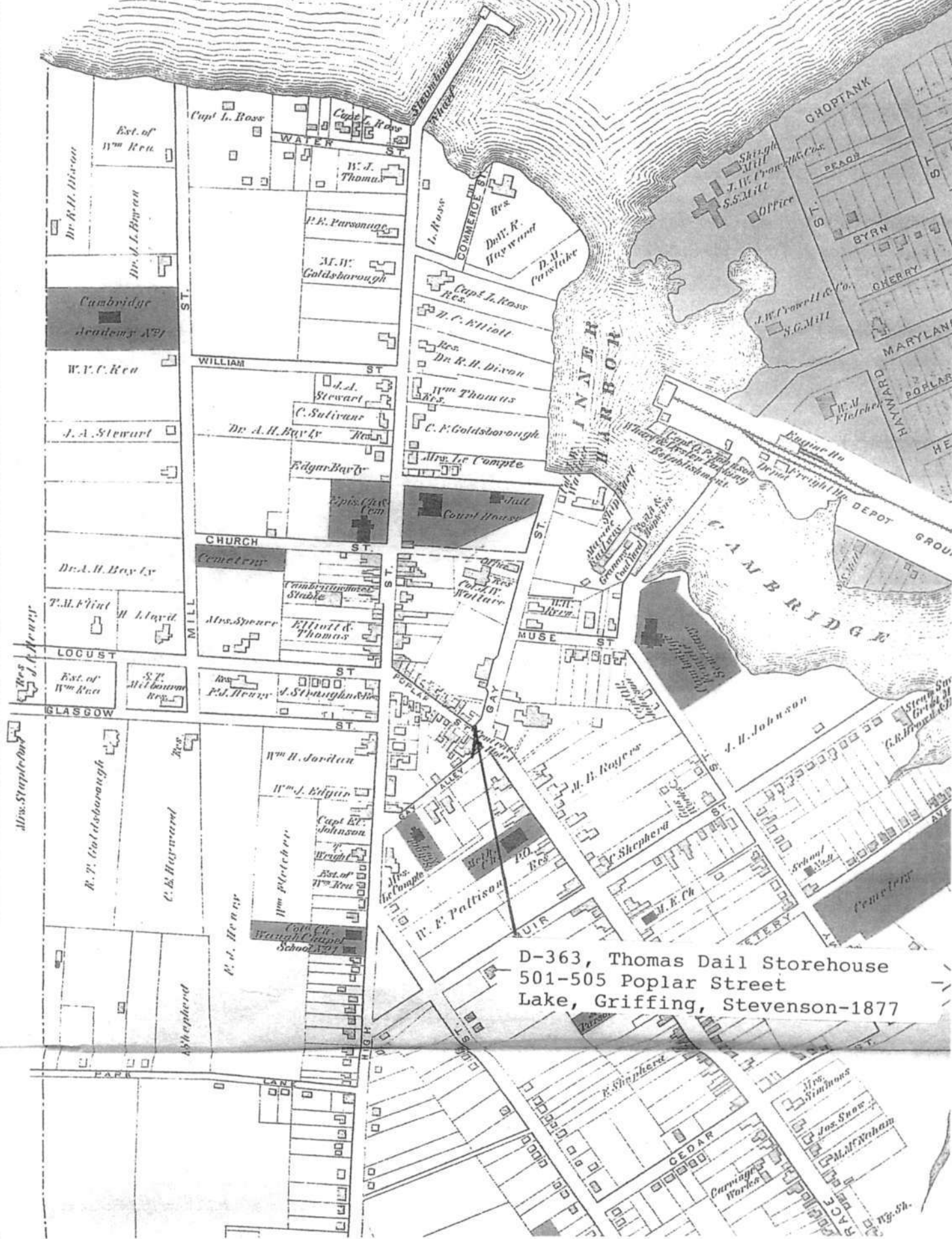
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/09/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CHOPTANK RIVER



D-363, Thomas Dail Storehouse
501-505 Poplar Street
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson-1877



D-363

DARK BRICK STOREHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

8/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
N.E./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-363

DARK BRICK STOREHOUSE
CAMBRIDGE, DOCKHUSSEY
CO., MD
WEST ELEVATION

8/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTO.
NEL./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-363

DARK BRICK STONEHOUSE

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO. MD.
EAST ELEVATION

8/08, PAUL TOWNSET, PHOTOGRAPHER
WGS/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Harlequin; Brightwell Photography

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

501-503-505 Poplar Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles R. Landrum

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 179

Folio #: 244

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-363

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the corner of Poplar and Gay Street, this three story brick building is almost identical to 400-402 Race Street on the opposite corner. It is a fairly simple building with a slightly pitched hip roof, and a dentiled cornice under the eaves and between the first and second story. The first story has been renovated, and old postcards of Poplar Street reveal that a cupola above the building has been removed. The upper stories are in need of paint.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at one of the major intersections of the downtown, this turn of the 20th century building is a focal point, although the potential attractiveness of this building has not been taken advantage of. It is unfortunate that the original cupola has been removed, for the building is otherwise fairly plain. The renovation of the first story in a pseudo-Georgian style conflicts with the original appearance of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

4/9/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

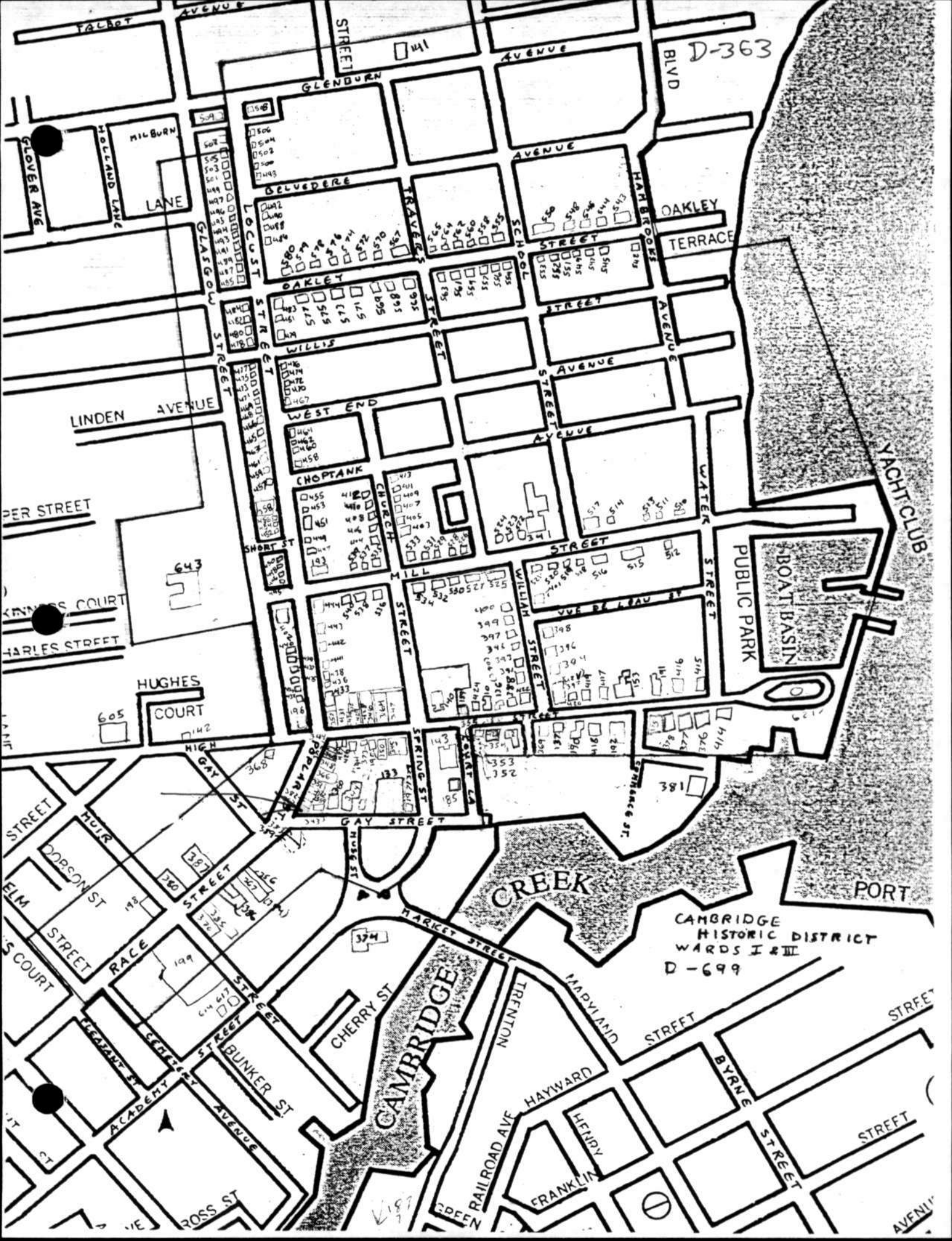
Cambridge

Maryland

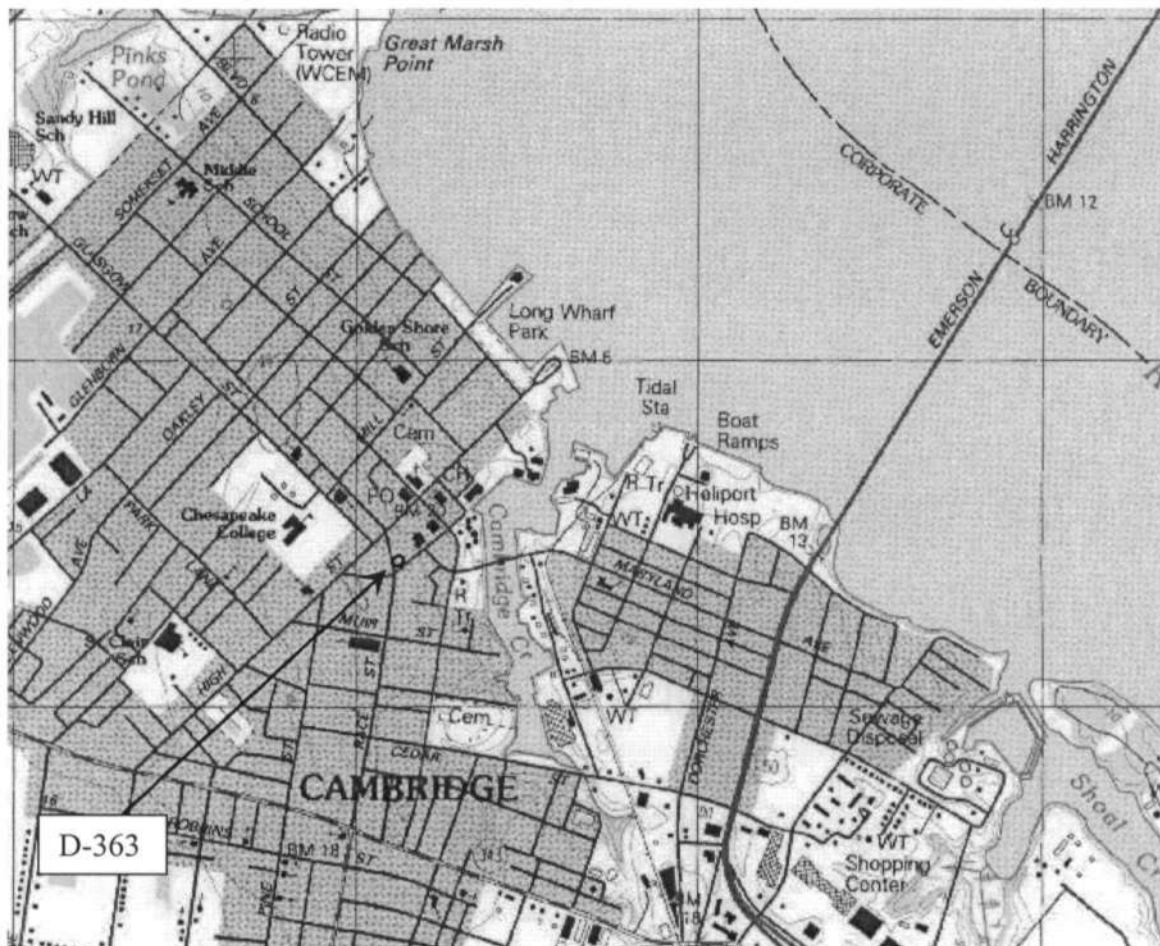
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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



D-363
Antique Store (Harlequin, Brightwell Photography)
501-503-505 Poplar St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





501-503-505 Poplar St., Cambridge, Md. - C.L.M., 1976

D-363

46%